

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-63-99

December 17, 1999

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation regarding Section 803.2.9 of the 1996 International Mechanical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: Is a masonry chimney in an enclosed garage considered interior or exterior for the purposes of determining the need for lining when a gas-fired appliance is vented into the chimney?

Answer: The concern of this section of the code is that when a masonry chimney is exposed to outdoor temperatures below the roof line, the interior of the masonry chimney might become so cold as to cause condensation and weak draft conditions during cold weather. The determination of whether or not a chimney inside a garage would be considered interior or exterior would have to be made on a case-by-case basis. For example, if the chimney were in an un-insulated garage, located near the overhead doors and such doors were habitually left open, the chimney could easily become cold enough to cause the condensation and draft problems mentioned above. If, however, the garage is insulated, the doors normally kept closed and the chimney remotely located from the doors, it is unlikely that the garage would develop temperatures cold enough to cause problems. The local building official should be consulted for guidance in this area at the time application for permit is made.